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Letter dated 23 May 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 26 April 2002, I have the honour to draw your attention to new massive violations of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 6, 7, 13, 17, 18, 21, 22, 26 and 27 March 2002, and on 2, 3, 4, 5, 15, 18, 19 and 30 April 2002.

On 6 March, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft, coming from a western direction, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 7 March, one F-4 Turkish military aircraft, coming from a south-eastern direction, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 13 March, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards a south-eastern direction, from where it returned later on the same day.

On 17 March, 10 F-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in three formations, one C-130, one C-160 and one CN-235, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus as follows:

(a) The 10 F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting in a south-eastern direction;

(b) The C-130 and C-160 military aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a south-eastern direction, from where it returned later on the same day;

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(c) The CN-235 entered the Nicosia FIR and violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) in a search and rescue mission before exiting the Nicosia FIR.

On 18 March, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft took off on the next day and returned to the FIR of Ankara.

On 21 March, one F-4 Turkish military aircraft, coming from a south-eastern direction, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 22 March, 10 F-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in three formations, one C-130, one C-160 and one CN-235, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus as follows:

(a) The 10 F-4 Turkish military aircraft, coming from a south-eastern direction, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The C-130 and C-160 military aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia before exiting in a south-eastern direction, from where they returned later on the same day;

(c) The CN-235 entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) in a search and rescue mission before exiting the Nicosia FIR towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 26 March, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting in a south-eastern direction, from where it returned later on the same day.

On 27 March, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft, coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting in a south-eastern direction, from where it returned later on the same day.

On 2 April, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria, before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On the same day, four F-16 Turkish military aircraft, flying in two formations, coming from the FIR of Ankara and a western direction, respectively, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the western area of Paphos before exiting in a western direction and towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 3 April, 12 F-16 and 2 RF-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in seven formations, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) Eight F-16 Turkish military aircraft, flying in four formations and coming from a western direction and the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations before exiting in the same two directions;

(b) Four F-16 Turkish military aircraft, flying in two formations, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Paphos before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara;

(c) Two RF-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in one formation, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area between Mesaoria and cape "Kormakitis" before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 4 April, six F-16 Turkish military aircraft, flying in three formations and coming from the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara and a western direction.

On 5 April, eight F-16 and four RF-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in five formations, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) Six F-16 and four RF-4 Turkish military aircraft, flying in four formations and coming from a western direction and the FIR of Ankara, entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations before exiting in the same two directions;

(b) Two F-16 Turkish military aircraft, flying in one formation, violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Paphos before exiting in a western direction.

On 15 April, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 18 April, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Karpasia (Cape of Apostolos Andreas) before exiting in a south-eastern direction, from where it returned later on the same day.

On 19 April, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On 30 April, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the Nicosia FIR, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal

airport of Tymbou in the occupied area of the Republic. The aircraft returned on the same day to the FIR of Ankara.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest the above actions, which violate international law as well as Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, and call for their cessation. I would like to note that those violations are not conducive to the maintenance of the required positive climate, especially during the present important phase of direct talks being held in Cyprus between the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Clerides, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Mr. Denktash, at your invitation in the exercise of your mission of good offices, which enjoys the full support of the Security Council. It is hoped that the Government of Turkey will show restraint, cease the violation of the airspace of Cyprus and, heeding the call by the Security Council, will contribute to the efforts to find a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem on the basis of United Nations resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Sotos **Zackheos**
Ambassador